

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 15-21 and 35-41 remain pending in the present application. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above captioned patent application in light of the remarks presented herein.

Drawings

The drawings filed on April 27 2006 are indicated as accepted by the Examiner, overcoming objections made in the previous Official Action.

Allowable Matter

The previously indicated allowablility of Claims 1-7 and 15-21 has been withdrawn. Applicants respectfully note that MPEP § 706.04 indicates, "it is unusual to reject a previously allowed claim" and instructs the Examiner that "great care" is to "be exercised in authorizing such a rejection." Applicants respectfully assert that such standard has not been upheld as the current rejection newly cites and relies on Hartranft et al. (US 4,605,980, "Hartranft"), which does not teach or suggest body bias distribution within an integrated circuit. Applicants regret that Claims 1-7 and 15-21 stand rejected.

Claims 35-41 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating allowable material.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 15, 17 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being allegedly unpatentable over Hartranft et al. (US 4,605,980, "Hartranft"). Applicants have reviewed the cited reference and respectfully assert that embodiments in accordance with the present invention as recited in Claims 1-3, 5-7, 15, 17 and 21 are patentable over Hartranft et al. (US 4,605,980, "Hartranft").

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 15, 17 and 21 recite a "body bias" and/or "a body terminal" or "body bias distribution circuit" in reference to integrated circuits and devices. The Hartranft reference is completely void of these or similar teachings.

As is known by those of ordinary skill in the art, an insulated-gate field-effect transistor (IGFET), or MOSFET as such devices are more commonly known, as described by the present application, is a four terminal device. These terminals are generally referred to as the gate, source, drain and body terminals. Some instances of such transistors may not explicitly utilize or even

discuss all four terminals. The gate is fundamentally different from the source and/or the drain, and these terminals are fundamentally, physically and electrically different from the body terminal. For example, the gate terminal is insulated from the body region of the device, whereas the body terminal is directly coupled to the body region of the device.

Consequently, the present claimed subject matter distinguishes over Hartranft in reciting a body terminal and/or a biasing voltage applied to a body terminal and a distribution circuit for a body bias because of such fundamental differences among the four terminals of an IGFET.

For example, the rejection alleges that Hartranft's "output circuits 89" teach "a body bias distribution circuit" as recited by Claim 1. In Figure 6, "output circuits 89" illustrate three terminal devices, e.g., the figure fails to depict a body terminal or discuss body bias voltages. Further, the voltages illustrated, Vdd and Vss, are applied to the drain and source, respectively. Neither a drain nor a source terminal teaches or fairly suggests a body terminal, nor do voltages applied to the source, drain and/or gate describe or suggest a "body bias." Consequently, the citation of "output circuits 89" in Figure 6, as well as the whole of Hartranft, is completely silent as to the recited body terminal and or body biasing voltages recited in the instant claims.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-3, 5-7, 15, 17 and 21 overcome the rejections of record, and respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 16 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Hartranft et al. (US 4,605,980, "Hartranft"). Applicants have reviewed the cited reference and respectfully assert that embodiments in accordance with the present invention as recited in Claims 4, 16 and 18-20 are patentable over Hartranft et al. (US 4,605,980, "Hartranft").

Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 4, 16 and 18-20 overcome the rejections of record by virtue of their dependency, and respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 4, 16 and 18-20 overcome the rejections of record for at least the rationale previously presented with respect to Claims 1-3, 5-7, 15, 17 and 21.

CONCLUSION

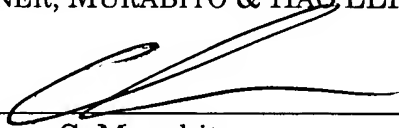
Claims 1-7, 15-21 and 35-41 remain pending in the present application. Applicants respectfully assert that the application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit allowance of this application.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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